

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 43-46, 48, 50-55, 57-61, 63-77, 79-80, and 82 were pending in the application. Claims 48, 54, and 76 were amended. Claims 52-53 and 82 were cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 6, 43-46, 48, 50-51, 54-55, 57-61, 63-77, and 79-80 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections:

The Office Action rejected claims 48, 50, 52, 54, 57, 58, 76 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobata et al. (U.S. Patent 6,170,065) (hereinafter “Kobata”). The Office Action further rejected claim 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobata in view of McCaleb et al. (U.S. Patent 6,751,794) (hereinafter “McCaleb”).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections, however, as objected to but allowable claims 53 and 82 (and their intervening claims) have been incorporated into their respective base claims (claims 48 and 76), Applicant respectfully submits independent claims 48, 76 and claims dependent thereon are now allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner remove the rejections to claims 48, 76 and claims dependent thereon.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicated claims 1, 3, 6, 43-46, 59-61, 63-75, and 80 are allowable. Further in a phone call with the Examiner on May 28, 2008, the Examiner confirmed that claims 51, 53, and 82, which are listed in the objected to claims section of the office action summary but not included in a rejection in the office action, are allowable but objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully notes the elements of claims 52 and 53 have been put into claim 46 and the elements of claim 82 have been put into claim 76. Applicant respectfully submits claims 48, 76 and claims dependent thereon are allowable for at least the above reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-33700/RCK.

Respectfully submitted,

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